

In the claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Postero-lateral intervertebral disc prosthesis comprising an element (3) mounted with an orientation and self-centering capability between ~~two inserts (1) a first insert and (2) a second insert adapted to be disposed~~ between the vertebral plateaus of two successive vertebral bodies, wherein:
- the first insert (1) has a planar section to be fixed on the a lower vertebral plateau;
 - the element (3) has a lower planar surface for support, with a limited capacity for translational displacement on the first insert (1), and an upper surface with a generally hemispherical form;
 - the second insert (2) has a planar section to be fixed on the an upper vertebral plateau and has, opposite thereto said planar section, a concave surface for cooperating with the hemispherical surface of the element (3), with the possibility of providing multi-directional articulation; and
 - the first and second inserts (1) and (2) and the insert (3) are have a generally circular shape in the form of a disc with a diameter of less than about 30 mm and, when juxtaposed with the element between the first and second inserts, define a total height of about 11 to 15 mm to permit introduction of the prosthesis by a postero-lateral approach route.

2. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the element (3) ~~constitutes comprises~~ a core of a generally hemispherical shape ~~capable of for~~ cooperating with the ~~recess (2a) having a concave shape that complements surface of the~~ second insert (2), said core (3) having a central positioning stud (3d) that cooperates with extending from a bottom surface, and the first insert having a central recess (1b) of the other insert (1) for receiving the stud in order to permit axial rotation.

3. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the further comprising positioning fittings of the core (3) are constituted by coupling means (3c) which cooperate with complementary means (1a) of the insert (1) to provide a fixed connection between the first insert and the element.

4. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the further comprising positioning fittings of the core (3) are constituted by coupling means which cooperate with complementary means of the insert to provide a mobile connection, with a capacity for limited translational displacement, between the first insert and the element.

5. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 3, wherein the coupling means capable of positioning fittings for providing a fixed connection are constituted by comprise complementary clipping means (3c) — (1a).

6. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 4, wherein the coupling means capable of positioning fittings for providing a mobile connection are constituted by recesses and projections that act as comprise a pivot pin (2b) — (4) connection between the first insert and the element [I.]].

7. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein each of the inserts (1) and (2) insert has, over in its thickness, fittings (E1) — (E2) to engage gripping and handling means.

8. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the core (3) element has, over in its thickness, fittings (E3) to engage gripping and handling means.

9. (Currently amended) Autostatic retractor for fitting a prosthesis,
~~according to any one in combination with the prosthesis of claims claim 1 to 8, wherein it~~
the retractor is shaped so as not to injure ~~the~~ neurological elements.

10. (New) A method of deploying an intervertebral disc prosthesis, comprising:
providing the prosthesis of claim 1; and introducing the prosthesis between two successive
vertebral bodies by a postero-lateral approach route.